Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 Attorney Docket No. 981032B Serial No. 10/786,091

## **Abstract**

Please amend the current Abstract as follows:

A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell includes a positive electrode, a separator impregnated with an electrolyte, and a negative electrode comprising hydrogen absorbing alloy powder a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste containing hydrogen absorbing alloy powder onto a substrate; and a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can. On the surface of the hydrogen absorbing alloy powder, there is formed a layer of hydrogen absorbing alloy oxide, and on the layer of the oxide, there is dotted a catalytic metal or metal compound formed in a granular state by adding a substance soluble in the electrolyte. The substance is selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide. The proportion of the metal fluoride, the metal chloride, the metal iodide, or the metal sulfide in adding is restricted within the range of from 0.1 to 2.5 wt.% based on the weight of hydrogenabsorbing alloy powder. When the layer of the hydrogen absorbing alloy oxide is formed on the surface of the hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, the reaction area on the surface of the hydrogen-absorbing alloy is increased due to the roughness of the layer. Into the paste or the electrolyte, a catalytic metal compound that has a proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt.% based on the weight of the hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder and that is soluble in the electrolyte is added. Consequently, the catalytic action of the metal is fully utilized by dotting this method that dots a catalytic metal or metal compound on the alloy surface, and thereby the inner pressure characteristic (high-rate charge characteristic) of a cell is improved.